

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

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NLLS grant
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EcoCentre tenders approved

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce approved four bids totalling \$221,882.22 for construction of the Elk Point Tourist Information EcoCentre at last Wednesday's meeting.

A bid by Maynard Swedgan of Rangeland Energy was approved for foundation, framing, drywall and insulation. Jonny's Electrical Ltd. put in the approved electrical bid, with the mechanical contract going to Trademark Mechanical of Bonnyville and painting to Painters Pallet of St. Paul. Project manager Bernie Genereux estimates the total cost of the project will be in the neighbourhood of \$346,900.

The building committee scheduled a meeting with Genereux for the following day to go over the details.

Sod turning for both the EcoCentre and the new fire hall will take place this afternoon, with construction to start in the very near future.

A third major construction project this year for Elk Point will be at the Northern Lights Library System headquarters, with bids to be opened May 21 and construction to start in early June, according to NLLS director Mircea Panciuk.

Family Fun Day planning underway

The next event on the chamber's calendar is the June 6 Family Fun Day, to be held in conjunction with the Elk Point Auto Club's annual show and shine.

The show and shine will return to Main Street this year, due to the EcoCentre construction, and the chamber plans to invite artists, artisans, crafters and home-based businesses from the area to set up tents and take part in an outdoor market that day.

Smith visited a similar event in St. Walburg, Sask., last year, which attracted well over a hundred vendors from Alberta and Saskatchewan, and says, "If we can attract a dozen or two, it will be a nice start that we can build on next year."

Last year's very popular Baby Buggy Race will be back again, Smith says, and she expects an increase in participation in the hilarious event, "now that people know what it's all about."

Participants are equipped with a life-sized baby doll and a stroller, and have to complete a series of parenting tasks, from dressing the baby to filling baby bottles, in a race with the clock.

Other attractions, such as street entertainers or children's activities, could be added, if volunteer groups, organizations or individuals are interested in planning and carrying them out.

Downtown businesses may also get involved with sidewalk sales, as they have in past years, Smith says, and although there is no chamber-organized community-wide garage sale this year, she suspects a number of householders will choose the June 5 and 6 weekend to hold their own sales.

The Chamber's next meeting will be on June 10.



Vicki Brooker photo

Moving melody in loving memory

Members of the Elk Point Palliative Care Society pause in reflection as Olivia Leaf saluted the memory of departed loved ones in the area with her rendition of "Amazing Grace" at the society's annual Candle Lighting Ceremony. Story, Page 5.

Gormley named Deputy Mayor

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Coun. Mark Gormley was sworn in as Elk Point's new Deputy Mayor at last Monday's regular meeting of town council. He will have that title for a nine month period.

Council met with Mark Filteau of Alta Gas at last Monday's regular meeting. Filteau gave a brief overview of the history of the company, and changes that have taken place recently, then answered questions on billing procedures. Council plans to review the matter further before making a decision.

Economic Development

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko reported that the golf course is planning to do its own website, and is exploring a possible funding partnership with Travel Alberta.

Bezpalko reviewed the responsibilities each councillor took on at last September's planning session. Under the second goal, "Our roadways serve our current highway and downtown

businesses and act as an incentive to new business," for example, Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich is slated to develop a plan and budget for appropriate signage by June 1 of this year, and was allotted a \$15,000 budget. Coun. Gormley has until September 1 and \$25,000 to complete a photo inventory to assist in setting standards or guidelines for highway and downtown properties, create incentives for owners to buy in to an improvement plan, and market the package to potential businesses. Coun. Dick Millar's assignment, dated March 1, was to have Elk Point join Communities in Bloom, but this was later changed to community enhancement.

Bezpalko said the Iron Horse Ultra 100 race went well, and organizers were pleased with the participation. The race could start in Elk Point next year, he noted, rather than St. Paul.

Details are still to be worked out on the screening of a movie starring Roy and Marjorie Scott, and no date has yet been set.

The fundraising sign for the Elk

Point Tourist Information EcoCentre is up, and the trees are down, ready for construction to begin, Bezpalko reported.

Appointments

Coun. Yaremkevich was appointed to represent the town on the Northern Lights Library System Condominium Association.

Bob Bezpalko was appointed to the Airport Commission.

Christoph Ludlage and Bart Pittlejon were appointed to the Economic Development Board.

Purchases approved

Council agreed to purchase a compaction plate, for a cost in the neighbourhood of \$3,500, to allow town crews to prepare ground for the pouring of sidewalks.

The purchase of a Fender Passport ST-275 tripod speaker stands set was also approved. The

Application denied

An application to use trailers for storage was turned down. Council will review the land use bylaw in this regard.

(Continued on Page 2)

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KINDERGARTEN (ECS) PRE-REGISTRATION

Elk Point Elementary School

Children who are 5 years of age as of February 28, 2010 are eligible to attend the Kindergarten program in the 2009 - 2010 school year.

An Information and Registration Night will be held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the E.C.S. room.

If you have a child of kindergarten age for the next school year and cannot attend the pre-registration night, please drop by the school office and fill out a registration before May 25, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 780-724-3880 during school hours. **This is a parent information night only.** There will be no children's activities.

Woman found not criminally responsible

By JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

A woman who plead guilty to second degree murder in the shooting death of her husband has been found to be not criminally responsible for her actions.

On May 11, Judith Lynn Babcock went before the Court of Queen's Bench. She had previously undergone psychiatric assessments and in the end, the Crown's own psychiatrist agreed Babcock was not criminally responsible for her actions, explained Crown Prosecutor Randy Brandt.

"There was no doubt," said Brandt following the proceedings. He added that the accused suffered from mental illness and although she agreed to having shot her husband, it was determined that Babcock did not appreciate the nature of the act she committed at the time of the incident.

Brandt explained that there was a lot of evidence in the case, which made the decision quite clear. Babcock has been ordered to be admitted to Alberta Hospital where her case will be reviewed annually.

Babcock will be detained, and cannot be an outpatient at the facility.

On Oct. 8, RCMP responded to a 911 call at a residence in the Elk Point area. Murray Evan Babcock was found deceased at the home due to an apparent gunshot wound.



Soccer supporters

Elk Point Soccer Club president Valerie Lazicki was pleased to accept new jerseys for the younger players from Shriners and St. George's Masonic Lodge representative Dean Berg, above, and \$600 for team pictures from Aaron Knopp on behalf of Elk Point Co-op.



Town council

(Continued from Front Page)

HUB

Coun. Millar and Bezpalko will attend the HUB annual general meeting on May 28 on the town's behalf.

Danyluk golf

Council agreed to sponsor a hole and to enter a team in the Hon. Ray Danyluk's annual golf tournament in St. Paul.

Street closure

Elk Point Auto Club was given permission to close

off a portion of Main Street for their annual Show and Shine on June 6.

Upcoming dates

Council set May 21 at 7 p.m. for a public meeting regarding their new area structure plan.

The household hazardous waste roundup has been set for Saturday, May 23 from 3 to 7 p.m.

Mayor Tung reminded council that the Seniors Week pancake breakfast is slated for Sunday, May 31.



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Food bank assisted

The Elk Point Food Bank, located in the Elk Point Baptist Church, will soon be able to offer additional aid to families in need. Mark Gormley and Aaron Knopp of Elk Point Co-op recently presented food bank volunteer June Lenihan with a chest freezer which will be used to store donations of government inspected meat, beginning in September. The food bank is open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oil women to take turn at the tee

By VICKI BROOKER
Staff Writer

After 25 years of "patiently supporting the Oilmen's Association" with their annual golf tournaments and bonspiels, Wanda Cochrane, Shaina Gadowski and Susan MacKinnon have declared, "It's high time for a tee time!" and are making plans for the first annual Diamond Drillbit Ladies' Golf Tournament, scheduled for July 4 at the Elk Point Golf and Country Club.

Cochrane came up with the idea, told Gadowski and MacKinnon, and "a committee was formed," Gadowski said.

To organize the event, "we've been going to the people who have the experience," she adds. "The Oilmen have helped us with the mail out and fax out. They gave us a list of the contacts they have, but we have to go beyond their list and get in touch with the ladies in banks, schools and businesses whose husbands or boyfriends work in the oil and gas industry, as well as the ladies who are employed in any sector of the industry."

They hope to have a full slate of 72 golfers for the one-day event, which starts with a light breakfast and ends with a steak barbecue and the presentation of prizes.

"You don't need to be a pro to participate," Gadowski adds. "You have seen some of the oilmen golf, haven't you?"

The contact list has so far netted them three hole sponsors, out of the required nine, "and some others are working on it," she says. In addition, "A lot of the oilmen are offering to help barbecue steaks, flight the golfers up after the first round, and set up the course. We haven't come up with anyone who wants to drive the shuttle bus yet, though." Bea Campbell and the Golf Club are also offering their expertise in planning and setting up the tournament.

If this year's tournament is a success, Gadowski says, "eventually we want to go to two days, but we want to get a good solid start first. And, who knows? It could lead to curling."

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F.G. Miller Jr./Sr. High School
SPRING REGISTRATION

On June 1 and 3 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm - F.G. Miller School will be registering currently enrolled students for the 2009/2010 school year. Our intention is to provide parents with the opportunity to register their children early to avoid the August registration line-ups.

During these evenings you will be able to fully register your children for the fall school year. All the necessary paper work will be done, student options will be picked and you will be able to pay your child's school fees immediately or with a postdated cheque.

Why register during Spring Registration? Avoid coming to August registration, thereby avoiding the rush * Spread out costs by paying for the school fees now and only supplies in the fall * Guarantee your options? Some options have class size caps and may fill up quickly.

Who can register during the Spring Registration? Students currently registered at F.G. Miller High or any Grade 6 student currently registered at Elk Point Elementary or J.F. Dion Schools, who will be attending Grade 7 at FGM.

IMPORTANT: Bring your child / children with you so they can pick their options or make sure you know what options they want before coming to registration.

Hope to see you on June 1st or 3rd.

Mr. Bjorkman, Principal

EDITORIAL

Contentious but worthwhile

Looking back through the issues of 25 years ago, we find that the town council of the day debated long into the night after ratepayers did their best to dissuade them from purchasing the land we now know as the Elk Point Recreation Park.

In the long run, they bit the bullet and went ahead with the purchase, laying the groundwork for a facility that is used almost constantly from the moment the snow is gone in the spring until it returns in the fall, bringing a constant influx of people to our community as well as supplying local residents of all ages with a venue for sports and recreational pursuits of many kinds, from camping to soccer to golf and ball.

Other long-ago, unpopular decisions involved the location of a rodeo grounds and riding arena at the north end of our community. The rodeo grounds are not used as much as they once were, but the riding arena makes up for it, and is in use almost every day of the year.

The new Arts and Leisure Centre looks like it is well on its way to becoming another success of the same kind, becoming another huge attraction in our town.

Regrettably, long-ago plans for a major bingo hall were turned down flat. It could have been a goldmine.

Those who took the risks did so with the community's best interests at heart, and we're fortunate they did.

WAY BACK WHEN...

Purchase protest, probe into past

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES IN THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19 IN...

- 1984**

Town council burned the midnight oil over their planned purchase of 160 acres of land for a recreational park, after seven ratepayers attended the meeting to voice their protests of the purchase. Most improved and most valuable players from Elk Point's peewee, bantam and midget hockey teams received awards at the year-end banquet.
- 1989**

A five-member archaeological team that arrived in Elk Point to probe the past of Fort George and Buckingham House invited volunteers to be part of the project, and the community to drop in and see their findings. Clouds of blowing soil further disheartened local farmers who questioned the wisdom of seeding their crops in the parched powder of their fields.
- 1994**

The tradition of Elk Point as a 'rainmaker' rodeo town was broken as dust flew for the Elk Point Spring Classic Stampede. Elk Point and Bonnyville Hospital Boards announced that Clem Johnson, the Elk Point Hospital administrator, would become the administrator for both facilities on June 1.
- 1999**

A near-capacity crowd was on hand as Elk Point Community Choir warmed the hearts of their listeners with their music at the annual spring concert. Downtown Elk Point would receive a major facelift, with new sidewalks and pavement overlay approved by town council on a unanimous vote.
- 2004**

Elk Point really cleaned up, with over twice as much hazardous household waste brought in for collection at the annual roundup as in 2003. Town council set their mill rate for 2004 taxes, with very little change from the previous year.



GUEST COLUMN

Memorial Day

Yesterday was Victoria Day. It was a holiday for us. Did you all remember why it was a holiday? This coming Monday in the United States it is a holiday for them. It is their Memorial Day.

It was 1866 and the United States was recovering from the long and bloody Civil war between the North and the South. Surviving soldiers came home, some with missing limbs, and all with stories to tell. Henry Welles, a drugstore owner in Waterloo, New York, heard the stories and had an idea. He suggested that all the shops in town close for one day to honor the soldiers who were killed in the Civil War and were buried in the Waterloo cemetery. On the morning of May 5, the townspeople placed flowers, wreaths and crosses on the graves of the Northern soldiers in the cemetery. At about the same time, Retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan planned another ceremony, this time for the soldiers who survived the war. He led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate their comrades' graves with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but a memorial. The townspeople called it Decoration Day.

In Retired Major General Logan's proclamation of Memorial Day, he declared: "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country and during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their



deanna EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

The two ceremonies were joined in 1868, and northern states commemorated the day on May 30. The southern states commemorated their war dead on different days. Children read poems and sang civil war songs and veterans came to school wearing their medals and uniforms to tell students about the Civil War.

In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day and soldiers who had died in previous wars were honored as well. In the northern United States, it was designated a public holiday. In 1971, along with other holidays, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day is not limited to honor only those Americans from the armed forces. It is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection. However, to many Americans the day also signals the beginning of summer with a three-day weekend to spend at the beach, in the mountains or at home relaxing.

On Memorial Day, the President or Vice President of the United States gives a speech and lays a wreath on the tombs. Members of the armed forces shoot a rifle salute in the air. Veterans and families come to lay their own wreaths and say prayers. There is a chance that one of the soldiers buried is a father, son, brother or friend. So yes, with the United States being involved in so many parts of the world, we can understand why Memorial Day is important to them.

To all our American friends, on Memorial Day, please accept our expression of respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of your country.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Janice Huser photo

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1300. Coming Events

DON'T MISS IT! 57th Annual International Oilmen's Golf Tournament, 2 great courses, Highlands and Belvedere in Edmonton, June 16 - 19. Register at www.iogt.ca.

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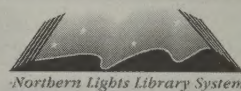
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Assistant Director
Northern Lights Library System
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7245. Misc. Services

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9005. Personals

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Elk Point 4-H news

By EDNA BOORSE
 Club Reporter

On May 2, we had highway clean-up. Our club did Moosehills Road, a road that we have been doing for years. There are 13 miles along that

stretch, a lot for a tiny little club. But the ditches were pretty clean so we were done in no time. We started cleaning at 10 a.m. and were done by 2 p.m. Then CNRL put on a barbecue for our club. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful barbecue.

All our projects are busy getting ready for Achievement Day. Small engines are working on fixing their motors and trying to make them run. Crafts made stepping stools and at their next get-together, they are getting all the preparation for their achievement display and will be making thank you cards for the sponsors. The beef and horse members are getting their projects ready for achievement day. Members in the canine project are working with their dogs for a little show at achievement day as well.

On May 30, our club is having our achievement day at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

7999. Too Late To Classify

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Northern Lights Library System directors Mary Ann Mochulski, Randy Boyd, Joseph Trapani, Ray Huot, Parrish Tung, Natalia Toroshenko, Cecilia Quist and Elaine Sorochan and board chair Larry Tiedemann were pleased to accept the CIP grant funding from the Hon. Ray Danyluk.



Contributed photo

Premier, ministers, MLAs contribute to new computers

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Members of the provincial government who represent the 57 municipalities making up the Northern Lights Library System have all contributed to the CIP funding that

results in 63 new computers and 43 receipt printers for libraries across the system area.

The introduction of a new circulation computer system, Polaris, created the need for updated computers that would be compatible, according to NLLS director Mircea Panciuk.

The computers are identical, for ease in identifying and dealing with any problems encountered with the new Polaris system, as well as simplifying the process of educating staff of all 40 libraries on the use of the system.

"We bought each library at least one new computer, and we applied to our MLA, the Hon. Ray Danyluk, for a CIP grant to help pay for them," Panciuk said.

Danyluk told Panciuk, "I won't give you all that money, but I will send the information to the other MLAs in the Northern Lights area."

Premier Ed Stelmach, cabinet ministers Hon. Ken Kowalski and Hon. Lloyd Snelgrove and MLAs Jeff Johnson, Doug Griffiths and Genia Leskiw joined Danyluk in contributing toward a \$51,900 grant that Danyluk presented to the NLLS Board of Directors at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. The amount of support from each contributor was pro-rated, according to the number of computers placed in each constituency, with Danyluk and Johnson providing the largest sums.

Panciuk said he told Danyluk that NLLS "is offering the government the model of cooperation in our libraries," with 57 municipalities agreeing and cooperating on library service, and feels that the joint contribution shows that the government is taking that cooperation to heart.



Town of Elk Point NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Town of Elk Point is currently preparing an Industrial Area Structure Plan pursuant to the Municipal Government Act R.S.A. 2000, as amended. The goal of the Industrial Area Structure Plan is to establish a framework for subsequent subdivision and development of parts of Elk Point east of Highway #41 being of SW 7-57-6-W4 and NW 6-57-6-W4.

As such, the Town would like to invite residents to attend a public meeting on May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Seniors Drop-In Centre (4813-51 Ave.)

Representatives of the Town and its planning consultants will be in attendance, and the public will be asked to provide their input on future industrial development within Elk Point. Refreshments will be provided.

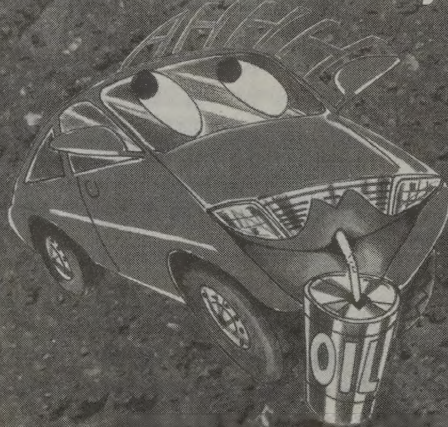
Those persons unable to attend the meeting may submit their comments and inquiries to Chelsey Jersak of Municipal Planning Services (Alberta) Ltd. at 780-486-1991 or Myron Goyan at the Town of Elk Point at 780-724-3810.

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5306 51 Avenue T9S 1G1

Ph. 780.675.2342

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Elk Point 4-H Multi Club



ACHIEVEMENT DAY & SALE

Once again, it is time for our annual Achievement Day and Sale. 4-H'ers from the Elk Point 4-H Multi Club has been diligently working to prepare their projects for their upcoming Achievement Day.

The event is set to take place at the
C.G. Baker Memorial Riding Arena, Elk Point
on **FRIDAY, MAY 29** starting at 4:00 p.m.

Featured at this event will be a Beef show, a Canine show, a Horse show, a Bench show displaying Craft and the Small Engines projects.

DISTRICT STEER SHOW & SALE

will be held on

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009

AT THE ST. PAUL AG. CORRAL

Showtime is at 12:30 p.m. and the sale to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Come for Beef on a Bun sponsored by the County
and check out some top quality Alberta 4-H Beef!
District Heifer Show 1 p.m., Sunday June 7
at St. Paul Ag.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT
OR THE 4-H PROGRAM PLEASE CONTACT
Cathy Ockerman, 4-H Beef Leader at 780-724-2443